

# IMMUNIZATIONS

Infant immunization is a simple, effective and inexpensive way to protect children from potentially deadly childhood diseases, such as measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and chickenpox. Children are most vulnerable to contracting these preventable diseases during the first two years of life, and need 80 percent of their vaccinations by their second birthday. Children in Tennessee must have certain required immunizations in order to attend child care or school.



## Required Immunizations

Required immunizations are defined as those specified by law. However, most health departments and physicians would recommend more than the required doses.<sup>1</sup>

## Child Care Attendance

Children attending child care must be immunized age-appropriately according to the schedule below:

Age of Child	Number of Doses Required
2-3 months	1 DTP/DtaP/DT, 1 Polio, 1 Hib
4-5 months	2 DTP/DtaP/DT, 2 Polio, 2 Hib
6-11 months	3 DTP/DtaP/DT, 2 Polio, 3 Hib
12-15 months	4 Hib*, and 1 MMR given on or after the first birthday
12-18 months	4 DTP/DtaP/DT, 3 Polio, and 1 Varicella
4-6 years	4 or more DTP/DtaP/DT, 4 Polio, 4 Hib*, 1 Varicella, and 2 MMR given on or after the first birthday

\*If child starts Hib at 15 months through 4 years of age, give just one dose of Hib vaccine.

## School Attendance (K-12)

### **DTP/DtaP/DT**

4 or more doses, one of which must be given on or after the fourth birthday. If starting series at age seven or older, only three doses are required.

### **Polio(OPV/IPV)**

4 doses of OPV or IPV. If the 3rd dose was given on or after the fourth birthday, the 4<sup>th</sup> dose is not required. However, if a combination of IPV/OPV (2IPV/2OPV) is used, all 4 doses are needed regardless of age.

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## MMR

2 doses, given on or after the first birthday required, for entrance into grades K, 4, 8 and 12. The second dose should be administered at least 30 days following the first dose. Beginning with the start of the 2001 school year, all students K-12 must have two doses of MMR.

## HepatitisB

3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine are required for entry into Kindergarten and 2 or 3 doses (depending on the type of vaccine given) for entry into 7th grade.

## Varicella

1 dose given on or after the first birthday for entrance into kindergarten; a parent or physician diagnosed history of disease is acceptable in lieu of vaccine for purposes of the requirement.

## College

Two doses of MMR are required for full-time students attending college in Tennessee if they were born after 1957. Parents and students should also consider the need for the meningococcal vaccine, particularly if the student will be living in a dormitory.

## Resources

In addition to choosing a health care provider for your baby, it's also important to know where to look for quality support and education. These organizations can help:

- American Academy of Pediatrics - (847) 434-4000 Children's health and parenting publications
- La Leche League - (800) LALECHE Breastfeeding consultations and publications
- March of Dimes - 1-888-MODIMES or [www.marchofdimes.com](http://www.marchofdimes.com)



<sup>1</sup> Tennessee Department of Health, Communicable and Environmental Disease Services website on February 28, 2006.

<http://www2.state.tn.us/health/Ceds/immunization.htm>